

Fostering for Adoption: Information for Birth Parents

Introduction:

This information is being given to you because your child has, or maybe placed in care. You may be feeling angry, sad and confused. This leaflet provides some information about involving you as a parent in planning for your child's future.

What is Fostering for Adoption?

FfA is a particular social work practice that values a child's need for a stable home life from a very early stage in their care journey and recognises their need for a predictable future. Staying in foster care is not always good for young children, especially if they have to move placements during the decision-making. However, with FfA placements, should the courts decide that your child cannot be returned to your care, they will not have to move but can stay with the same family that has been providing the foster care (as these carers are also approved as adopters).

FfA is a process that works towards providing your child with the security of a permanent home in a time frame that is beneficial to your child's physical, social and emotional development.

What are Fostering for Adoption Placements?

FfA homes are families that have been approved to adopt as well as provide foster care. They have been trained to work with the Local Authority in caring for your child until the courts have made a final decision about where your child should live permanently. If your child is unable to return to your care these carers (because they have been approved for adoption) are also able to offer a permanent adoptive home for your child without them experiencing a potentially damaging and upsetting move.

By placing your child with FfA carers and the Local Authority are putting your child's welfare first. In such a placement your child is being given greater stability as they are protected from potential multiple moves in care.

What are Friends and Family Placements?

These placements, sometimes known as kinship foster care, consist of relatives or close friends who are able to provide your child with a good quality permanent home. They must have a close relationship with your child and would have to be assessed and approved under fostering regulations.

If you think that someone in your family could offer a suitable permanent home for your child, you should tell your child's social worker immediately.

What do I do next?

Take an honest look at the problems that caused your child to be removed from your home, or are concerning the Local Authority so they are planning to do so.

If your child is not living with you make sure you attend contact sessions with your child and take an active role in co-parenting your child with your child's FfA carers.

Help your child accept their carer's as people who are helping to provide a safe and secure home for them while the courts are deciding where they should live permanently.

Evaluate your ability to provide a safe home for your child in the near future.